

Amendments to the Claims:

Entry of the following amendments to place claims 3-4 into condition for allowance is respectfully requested.

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An illumination device comprising:

a light source;

an optical fiber bundle;

a coupling-in optical system which couples the light of said light source into a first end of said fiber bundle, wherein the coupling-in optical system has a large numerical entrance aperture;

a coupling-out optical system which couples out the light emerging from each fiber of the optical fiber bundle at a second end of said optical fiber bundle, the light emerging from the fibers retaining an inhomogeneous intensity distribution of light corresponding to the inhomogeneous distribution created at the entry of the light into the fibers at the first end of the optical fiber bundle;

an illuminating optical system which illuminates an image field; and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system,

~~wherein no fiber within said optical fiber bundle produces multiple images of the light introduced at the first end, and~~

wherein said homogenizing optical system homogenizes a nonuniform intensity distribution in the image field of the light emerging from said optical fiber bundle, and wherein homogenization occurs only in an intermediate image

plane, and this homogenization is performed only by the homogenizing optical system.

4. (currently amended) An illumination device comprising:

a light source;

an optical fiber bundle;

a coupling-in optical system which couples the light of said light source into a first end of said fiber bundle, wherein the coupling-in optical system has a large numerical entrance aperture NA that is greater than or equal to 0.60;

a coupling-out optical system which couples out the light emerging from each fiber of the optical fiber bundle at a second end of said optical fiber bundle, the light emerging from the fibers retaining an inhomogeneous intensity distribution of light corresponding to the inhomogeneous distribution created upon entry of the light into the fibers at the first end of the optical fiber bundle;

an illuminating optical system which illuminates an image field; and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system,

~~wherein no fiber within said optical fiber bundle produces multiple images of the light introduced at the first end, and~~

wherein said homogenizing optical system homogenizes the nonuniform intensity distribution in the image field of the light emerging from said optical fiber bundle, and wherein homogenization occurs only in an intermediate image

plane, and this homogenization is performed only by the homogenizing optical system.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A coordinate measuring instrument comprising:
a horizontally X-Y displaceable measurement stage for receiving a
substrate with a feature that is to be measured;

an illumination system including

a light source,

an optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-in optical system before the optical fiber bundle,

a coupling-out optical system after the optical fiber bundle,

an illuminating optical system for illuminating an image field, and

a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said

coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, said

homogenizing optical system homogenizes the non-uniform intensity distribution

in the image field of the light emerging from the optical fiber bundle, wherein the

light of said light source is picked off via said coupling-in optical system with a

large numerical entrance aperture, and is coupled into said optical fiber bundle;

and

a detector device for determining the coordinates of the feature within the
X-Y displaceable measurement stage.

8. (previously presented) A coordinate measuring instrument comprising:
a horizontally X-Y displaceable measurement stage for receiving a
substrate with a feature that is to be measured;
an illumination system including
a light source,
an optical fiber bundle,
a coupling-in optical system before the optical fiber bundle,
a coupling-out optical system after the optical fiber bundle,
an illuminating optical system for illuminating an image field, and
a homogenizing optical system which is arranged between said
coupling-out optical system and said illuminating optical system, said
homogenizing optical system homogenizes the nonuniform intensity distribution
in the image field of the light emerging from the optical fiber bundle, wherein the
light of said light source is picked off via said coupling-in optical system with a
large numerical entrance aperture NA that is greater than or equal to 0.60, and
is coupled into said optical fiber bundle; and
a detector device for determining the coordinates of the feature within the
X-Y displaceable measurement stage.

9. (previously presented) The coordinate measuring instrument of claim
8, wherein the feature is an edge.

10. (previously presented) The coordinate measuring instrument of claim 7, wherein the feature is an edge.